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10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

11 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

13 ERICA BLUTH, an individual, and
14 LAVORIA WILSON, an individual,

15 Plaintiff,

16 v.

18 TYLER BAEHR, and individual, and THE
CITY OF RENO, a political subdivision of
19 the State of Nevada.,

20 Defendants.

Case No.: 3:25-cv-00129 ART-CSD

**PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PROTECTIVE ORDER**

23 Plaintiffs ERICA BLUTH and LAVORIA WILSON, by and through their counsel,
24 respectfully move this Court for a Protective Order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil
25 Procedure 26(c) to safeguard confidential and sensitive information obtained during
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1 discovery in this case. This motion is supported by the following memorandum of
2 points and authorities, the accompanying declarations, and the record in this case.

3 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

4 **I. INTRODUCTION**

5 This case arises from the alleged unconstitutional and tortious conduct of
6 Defendant Tyler Baehr, a Reno Police Officer, who, during routine traffic stops,
7 surreptitiously accessed and, in Plaintiff Bluth's case, copied private and intimate
8 materials from Plaintiffs' cell phones without consent or legal justification. These
9 actions violated Plaintiffs' Fourth Amendment rights, Article 1, Section 18 of the
10 Nevada Constitution concede that this is a serious matter requiring discovery of highly
11 sensitive materials, including personal and intimate images and videos, which are
12 central to Plaintiffs' claims of invasion of privacy and emotional distress. The sensitive
13 nature of these materials necessitates a protective order to prevent further
14 dissemination and protect Plaintiffs' privacy during the litigation process.
15

16 Plaintiffs have made good-faith efforts to negotiate a stipulated protective order
17 with Defendants, as evidenced by the email correspondence and proposed protective
18 order sent to Defendant City of Reno's counsel on April 14, 2025, and follow-up
19 communications on April 21, 2025. Despite these efforts, the City of Reno has
20 unreasonably refused to stipulate, citing a potential motion to stay the case as a pretext
21 for delay, thereby necessitating this motion.
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1 **II. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

2 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), a court may issue a protective order
3 “to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue
4 burden or expense” upon a showing of good cause. The court has broad discretion to
5 determine whether a protective order is warranted. *Phillips ex rel. Estates of Byrd v.*
6 *Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1210 (9th Cir. 2002). In evaluating the need for a
7 protective order, the court considers the nature of the information at issue and the
8 potential harm from its disclosure. *Seattle Times Co. v. Rhinehart*, 467 U.S. 20, 36
9 (1984).

10 In the Ninth Circuit, the presumption of public access to court records, as
11 articulated in *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006),
12 requires a party seeking to seal documents to demonstrate “compelling reasons” for
13 dispositive motions or a “good cause” standard for non-dispositive motions, such as
14 discovery-related documents. *Id.* at 1179-80. The court must balance the public’s right
15 to access against the private interests in confidentiality, considering factors such as the
16 sensitivity of the information and the potential for harm. *Id.* at 1180-81.

17 **III. ARGUMENT**

18 **A. Good Cause Exists for a Protective Order Due to the Sensitive Nature of
19 the Materials**

20 The discovery in this case will involve highly sensitive and private materials,
21 including intimate images and videos allegedly accessed and/or copied by Defendant
22 Baehr without Plaintiffs’ consent. These materials are central to Plaintiffs’ claims under
23 42 U.S.C. § 1983, the Nevada Constitution, and for intrusion upon seclusion, as they
24

1 demonstrate the extent of the privacy invasion and resulting emotional distress. The
2 surreptitious nature of Baehr's alleged actions—accessing private content under the
3 pretext of official police business—heightens the need for confidentiality to prevent
4 further victimization of Plaintiffs.

5 Disclosure of these materials without restriction risks severe embarrassment,
6 humiliation, and emotional distress to Plaintiffs, who have already suffered significant
7 trauma from Baehr's alleged misconduct. The Ninth Circuit has recognized that
8 protecting personal privacy constitutes a compelling reason to limit public access,
9 particularly when the information involves “private and intimate details” that could
10 cause harm if disclosed. *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180. Here, the intimate nature of the
11 materials, combined with the allegations of abuse of authority, satisfies the good cause
12 standard under Rule 26(c) and aligns with *Kamakana*'s recognition of privacy as a
13 compelling interest.

14 Moreover, the proposed protective order (attached as Exhibit 1) is narrowly
15 tailored to balance confidentiality with the needs of litigation. It permits designation of
16 materials as “confidential,” restricts disclosure to specific categories of individuals (e.g.,
17 counsel, experts, and court personnel), and requires a certification of compliance. It
18 also includes procedures for challenging designations and filing under seal, consistent
19 with Local Rule IA 10-5 and *Kamakana*'s requirement that sealing requests overcome
20 the presumption of public access. This structure ensures that sensitive materials are
21 protected without unduly restricting the litigation process.

22 ***B. The City of Reno's Refusal to Stipulate Is Unreasonable and a Delay***

23 ***Tactic***

1 Plaintiffs have acted in good faith to negotiate a stipulated protective order, as
2 required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(f). On April 14, 2025, Plaintiffs' counsel
3 sent a draft protective order and discovery plan to Defendant City of Reno's counsel,
4 Peter Keegan, for review. Despite initial discussions during the Rule 26(f) conference,
5 where the City raised no substantive objections to the protective order's terms, the City
6 failed to respond to the draft. On April 21, 2025, Plaintiffs' counsel followed up,
7 requesting confirmation of the City's consent to the protective order and discovery
8 plan, again receiving no response until April 22, 2025.

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10 In its belated response, the City objected to the protective order and discovery
11 plan, citing its intent to seek a stay pending the outcome of a related criminal case
12 against Baehr (Case No. 3:25-CR-00002-MMD-CSD). This objection is unreasonable
13 and appears designed to delay discovery and resolution of this civil matter. The City's
14 stated intent to seek a stay does not negate the immediate need to protect sensitive
15 materials during discovery, which is likely to commence regardless of a potential stay,
16 given the distinct nature of civil and criminal proceedings.
17

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19 The City's refusal to stipulate, despite Plaintiffs' good-faith efforts, forces
20 Plaintiffs to incur unnecessary expense and delay in seeking this Court's intervention.
21 The proposed protective order is standard in cases involving sensitive personal
22 information and aligns with federal and local rules. The City's objection lacks a
23 substantive basis and appears to be a strategic maneuver to hinder Plaintiffs' ability to
24 pursue their claims efficiently.
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1 **C. The Protective Order Will Not Prejudice Defendants or the Public**
2 **Interest**

3 The proposed protective order does not prejudice Defendants, as it applies
4 equally to all parties and non-parties producing confidential information. It allows
5 Defendants to designate their own materials as confidential, ensuring mutual
6 protection. The order also preserves Defendants' ability to challenge designations and
7 seek court intervention, maintaining fairness in the discovery process.

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9 The public interest is not undermined by the protective order, as it pertains to
10 discovery materials, which are not subject to the same presumption of access as
11 dispositive filings. *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179. The order ensures that sensitive
12 materials remain confidential during litigation, while still allowing their use at trial,
13 subject to further court oversight. This approach protects Plaintiffs' privacy without
14 compromising the judicial process or public access to the case's ultimate resolution.

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16 **IV. CONCLUSION**

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18 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant
19 their motion and enter the proposed protective order (Exhibit 1) to safeguard the
20 confidential and sensitive materials at issue in this case. The surreptitious nature of
21 Defendant Baehr's alleged actions, the intimate content of the materials, and the
22 potential for further harm to Plaintiffs establish good cause under Rule 26(c) and
23 compelling reasons under *Kamakana*. The City of Reno's unreasonable refusal to
24 stipulate further necessitates this Court's intervention to ensure fair and efficient
25 discovery.

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Dated: Apr 23, 2025

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2 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**
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4 I certify that on the date shown below, I caused service to be completed of a true
5 and correct copy of the foregoing by:
6

- 7 personally delivering;
8 delivery via Reno/Carson Messenger Service;
9 sending via Federal Express (or other overnight delivery service);
10 depositing for mailing in the U.S. mail, with sufficient postage affixed thereto; or,
11 delivery via electronic means (fax, eflex, NEF, etc.) to:
12

13 Peter K Keegan
14 Reno City Attorney
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17 775-220-1426
18 Email: keeganp@reno.gov

19 Apr 23, 2025

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